

Testimony  
H.B. 6666  
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H.B. 6666 raises many concerns regarding the quality of education for Connecticut students. From 1986-1994, I served as Director of Education for Young Audiences, Kansas City. Our organization served over 50,000 students in all of the major school districts in the Kansas City metropolitan area. My work was to serve as the liaison between professional artists in music, dance, drama, and visual art and teachers in both arts and general classrooms.

All of the artists were experts in their discipline and would have met the academic requirements defined in H.B. 6666. Their ability to present information to children was engaging and sometimes memorable, however, the artists could only teach what they knew.

- They lacked the broad spectrum of academic and pedagogical training needed to reach the diverse populations of urban, suburban, and rural students.
- They lacked knowledge and working capacity to address National, State, and District standards that guide high levels of instruction.
- They lacked the capability to teach the many disciplines within each of the arts areas (e.g. band, orchestra, vocal performance, and general music methodologies such as Kodaly, Orff, and Solfege, painting, drawing, sculpture).
- They lacked training in assessment and curricular design.
- They lacked state required training in health, special education, psychology, and cross-disciplinary reading.

In short, these artists were able to provide supplementary expertise in areas for which they specialized but completely lacked pedagogical and academic training. The artists who may be hired because of this bill would bring the same shortcomings to Connecticut schools.

H.B.6666 provides a disastrous precedent for all curricular areas. *This bill would allow artists who lack the high standards set for Connecticut education to replace highly qualified teachers.* If H.B. 6666 passes, then one could argue for CEOs to substitute for certified superintendents, principals, and teachers in all disciplines. Our children deserve the highest quality, most comprehensive education in the country. I urge you to stop this bill and this catastrophic development.